

Message

From: Watson, Jane [watson.jane@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2015 3:54:27 PM
To: Honker, William [honker.william@epa.gov]
CC: Martinez, Maria [Martinez.Maria@epa.gov]
Subject: Spanish Lake meeting with NOLA COE and Tim Hardy

Hello Bill,

Tim Hardy, two other attorneys from his practice, and a wetlands consultant, Scott Nesbitt, met with Maria, Raul and myself and a COE project office, Brian Brough, at the COE offices on 04/09/2015 to discuss issues with the Spanish Lake mitigation bank.

The Spanish Lake bank representatives brought up concerns about the credits that are available for sale. They asked the COE:

- If the S.L. bank agreement could be amended to allow sale of wetlands enhancement credits, rather than preservation credits, which are not very marketable in today's permitting environment
- if COE project officers would inform permit applicants that Spanish Lake preservation credits were available for use

COE agreed to get their Counsel's opinion on some questions related to S.L.'s issues, and to vet development of the bank for enhancement credits with mitigation Interagency Review Team.

We also discussed with the COE their plans to develop and adopt a new evaluation method in the absence of the MCM. They are going to start a public input process with stakeholders, at the DC's request, and have a 12-18 month horizon. We offered any technical assistance we could provide, as we're working with a rapid assessment for wetlands with Texas (TXRAMM) now.

Thanks
Jane

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